

"A FAMILY TO LOVE"

An Honors Thesis (Honors 499)

by

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## Abstract

“A Family To Love” is a movie screenplay, following the trials and tribulations of the Payne family. This dysfunctional family must deal with a variety of issues, including crime, drug addiction, unwed mothers, interracial relationships, homosexuality, adultery, rape, and domestic violence. The main character is Jim Payne, and most of the story is a coming of age tale about him, and his twin brother, Danny. This screenplay exposes many problems in our society, utilizing both traditional dramatic writing, as well as touches of dark comedy.

## Acknowledgments

I am deeply indebted to Wes Gehring, for his willingness to advise me, his helpful suggestions, and constructive criticism. I would also like to thank all my friends and family who encouraged me to complete this project. Special thanks to Gregg, for his genuine interest in the story, and most of all to Jin Peh; from whom the inspiration for this screenplay came. It was a long and difficult process, but I finished it, and I hope everyone enjoys it.

**Scene 1—EXT.—CEMETARY—DAY**

*It's an overcast day, the wind is blowing hard, leaves are swirling all around. A small crowd, perhaps 15 people, are gathered around an open casket.*

**MINISTER**

Death comes to us all. We all know our time will come eventually, but no one ever knows when that will be. The bible tells us not to look at death with fear, but with joy, knowing we will soon see our maker and his son, Jesus Christ. But death is not joyful, especially when it happens so suddenly and violently. Our thoughts and our prayers go out not only to the one we have lost, but to the Payne family, who must find the strength to carry on. Where 5 once were now are 4, but I know if any family could find a way to move forward it's the Payne's. Let us pray.

As the congregation begins praying, a sudden gust of wind kicks up, and the casket is slammed shut.

**FADE OUT.****Scene 2—INT.—PAYNE HOUSE, 12 years earlier—MORNING**

*The family is gathered around the kitchen table eating breakfast. Allison, age 15, and her twin brothers, Jimmy and Danny, age 10, are sitting down. The mother, Cindy, is cooking at the stove.*

**CINDY**

Boys, hurry up, you still have to brush your teeth, and the bus will here any minute now.

**JIMMY**

So what? I don't care if we miss the bus.

**CINDY**

You'd better care, you want to get your father?

**JIMMY**

Good luck, like he's ever here anyway. Like he cares if we miss the bus.

**DANNY**

Shut up. Dad has big business to do.

**JIMMY**

How do you know what he has to do? He hasn't talked to us in over a week.

**DANNY**

Maybe you, he talked to me last night.

ALLISON

Cut it out, both of you. Dad works hard for all us, and you're just retarded if you think he doesn't care about us. Would he have bought you that stupid Nintendo for Christmas?

CINDY

That's right, and what about the trip to Disney World we took last year?

DANNY

And our season tickets to the Giants?

JIMMY

He does that stuff for himself. Does he talk to us at the football games? Does he help you work on your passing? Does he know who Allison's boyfriend is this week?

ALLISON

You little brat.

JIMMY

It's true. He cares more about being Mr. Banker than Dad.

CINDY

Enough! Both of your parents love you very much, and do things for you that you're too young to understand. Now go get on that bus, and I'll see you at 3.

*The kids pick up their dishes from the table and carry them to the sink, collect their backpacks and walk out the door. Cindy watches them get on the bus through the window, and then turns to a cupboard, where she pulls out a bottle of bourbon and takes a drink.*

**FADE OUT.**

**Scene 3—INT.—PAYNE HOUSE—EVENING**

*The family is at the kitchen table again, eating dinner. An empty place is set at the head of the table where the father, Ed, should be sitting.*

CINDY

So Jimmy, tell me more about this play your class is putting on.

JIMMY

It's about Christopher Columbus, and I get to be him.

CINDY

Terrific honey, I'm so proud of you. So do you get to ride a real horse?

ALLISON

Mom, Christopher Columbus didn't ride a horse. He's the guy that discovered America.

*Cindy begins giggling, obviously a little tipsy.*

CINDY

That's right, the guy on the Mayflower.

DANNY

Mom, he wasn't on the Mayflower.

CINDY

He wasn't? Then how did he find America? Swim?

*Cindy begins laughing hysterically, the kids all look down at their food. The door then opens, and in comes Ed, the father. He's dressed in a dark suit, very expensive, carrying a briefcase.*

ED

Sorry I'm late, busy day at work. My god damned secretary over scheduled me again, you know how that goes.

*Ed kisses his wife on the cheek, and then sits and begins eating. An uncomfortable silence blankets the room.*

ED

So why the hell is everyone so quiet? Danny, did you practice today?

DANNY

Yeah, Jimmy and me played catch for a while.

ED

Jimmy? You played catch? It's about damned time. I told you you'd outgrow that dancing and gymnastics shit.

CINDY

Ed!

ED

Well I'm sorry, but boys need to be out getting dirty and playing football, not wearing tights and doing somersaults.

ALLISON

But Jimmy's really good at dancing. In fact, he got the lead in his school's musical.

ED

Musical? Christ son, what the hell is wrong with you? Danny, are you in this play thing?

DANNY

No. They practice after school, and I have football practice at 4-thirty.

ED

Damn right, where you should be, and Jimmy should too.

CINDY

Ed, I said it was ok for Jimmy to be in the play.

ED

Well fine then, why don't we let you start making all the decisions around here. Let's let Allison go out with that punk Steve Sherman.

ALLISON

I am on Friday.

ED

Like hell you are. You are not going out with that boy, he's trash.

ALLISON

You know nothing about him, He's...

ED

He's worthless, and you're not going out with him. I was talking to Phil at work, and I told him you'd go out with his boy, Curt.

ALLISON

Curt Johnson? He's like the king of the school, he won't go with me.

ED

It's already taken care of, you're going out with him Friday.

*Allison rises and runs out the room. Ed looks around at each of the others, as if to challenge them to question him. No one says a word.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 4—INT—BANK—DAY**

*Ed Payne is in his office, looking over some paperwork. An attractive young secretary, Kathryn, walks into the room.*

Kathryn

Excuse me Mr. Payne... here's the loan information on the William's land deal you asked about.

*She lays the papers on his desk, and turns to walk out. Ed stares at her body admiringly, and calls to her just as she's leaving the room.*

Ed

Kathryn. How long have you been working here?

Kathryn

About four months. Why?

Ed

I've noticed you everywhere, you're always doing this and that, always on top of things.

*She blushes, and looks down.*

Kathryn

Well thank you sir, I'm working hard. I'm trying to prove that I can be more than a secretary, I really want to get into management.

*Ed rises from his desk and starts walking towards her slowly.*

Ed

Well management is tough. You really have to prove your loyalty the company.

Kathryn

I'd do anything to move up in this company.

*Ed raises his eyebrows, takes her by the hand, pulls her back into the office, and closes the door.*

Ed

You're on top on things, you do anything for the company, and you want to get into management. Maybe you should try doing one of the managers on top... **FADE OUT.**

#### **SCENE 5—INT—SCHOOL STAGE**

*Jimmy is in his costume for the play, "Christopher Columbus." He is looking through the curtains to see who is in the crowd. Cindy is in the audience with Danny and Allison.*

TEACHER

Two minutes! Two minutes to showtime!

STUDENT IN COSTUME

Jimmy, what are doing?

JIMMY

I was just seeing who is out there, my dad isn't here yet.

STUDENT IN COSTUME

Well get over here, we have to get in our places.



*Out in the audience, Cindy is looking at her watch, obviously annoyed.*

ALLISON

What time did Dad say he'd be here?

CINDY

A quarter to seven. I have seven-oh-four right now.

DANNY

He'll be here, He probably has a big work load he's trying to finish off.

*Cut to Ed's office, where he is having sex with the secretary on his desk.*

KATHRYN [between panting and grunting]

What time is it?

ED

Who cares?

KATHRYN

Don't you have to go home to your family?

ED

No. My little faggot son is in some school play, they'll be gone for hours. Now shut up and keep going.

*Cut back to school play. The curtain opens and Jimmy is on stage, the play begins.*

ALLISON

He's so cute up there, look at that hat!

CINDY

Shhhh!

ALLISON

Danny, don't you think he's really good?

**Danny**

Yeah, he's been working really hard on this, it means a lot to him.

CINDY

Shhhh!

*We see a few more moments of Jimmy on stage, obviously having the time of his life. Fade to final lines of the play, where Jimmy finishes, and the crowd erupts into a standing ovation.*

FADE OUT

SCENE 6—INT—PAYNE LIVING ROOM

*Cindy, Danny, Jimmy, and Allison are all sitting around the room, talking about Jimmy's performance.*

CINDY

Really honey, you were great.

ALLISON

Totally, I'm so proud of you!

JIMMY

Danny, what did you think?

Danny

I thought it was pretty rad, I mean, most of it was boring, but you really did do good, I mean it.

*At this point, the door opens and in walks Ed, tie loosened, hair slightly mussed.*

ED

Hi everybody. Jimmy, I'm so sorry I missed you tonight, did you guys get my call?

CINDY

What call?

ED

I told my secretary to call you and tell you I was stuck in a meeting and couldn't get out of there.

DANNY

Dad, you really missed it, Jimmy was awesome.

CINDY

I never got a phone call.

ED

**Damn! Kathryn is really screwing me over, I specifically told...**

CINDY

You never told anyone to call. You don't even have the decency to show up...

ED

I did tell her to call! How dare you accuse me of...

ALLISON  
Stop it! Both of you!

ED  
Watch your mouth little girl! You have no right...

CINDY  
Don't yell at her!

ED  
Of all people to talk about yelling...

JIMMY  
Dad?

ED  
You're yelling louder than anyone here.

JIMMY  
Dad?

ED  
Furthermore, I'm the one bringing home all the money in this family, so if I have to stay a little late at work to give you all that you see around you, well then...

JIMMY  
Dad!

ED  
God dammit! What the hell do you want? Can't you see I'm talking to your mother?

JIMMY  
Nevermind.

*Jimmy starts to cry, and runs out of the room. Allison runs after him, and finally, Danny gets up and walks out also. We still hear Ed and Cindy screaming at each other.*

**FADE OUT**

**SCENE 7—INT—PARENT'S BEDROOM—EVENING**

*Allison is getting ready for a date, putting on makeup, looking through Cindy's dresser for some jewelry to wear.*

ALLISON  
Mom? Where are those big hoop ones you have?

CINDY [offscreen, behind the bathroom door]  
Big hoop whats?

ALLISON  
Your earrings, those big hoop earrings.

CINDY  
Why do you want big hoop earrings?

ALLISON  
Hello? It's 1988, everybody is wearing big hoop earrings.

CINDY  
Well I don't know. Why don't you just wear a hula hoop around your waist? [begins giggling wildly]

*Allison sighs and turns to walk into the bathroom, she tries to turn the knob, but it is locked.*

ALLISON  
Mom, what are you doing in there?

*We see Cindy sitting on the toilet, smoking a joint. She jumps up, flushes the joint down the toilet, and begins spraying an aerosol air freshener all over the room.*

CINDY  
Just going to the bathroom. Can't you see the toilet flushing?

ALLISON  
Well no, I can't, since the door is locked.

*Cindy opens the door, and a heavy whiff of the air freshener hits Allison.*

ALLISON  
Ohh. What the heck did you do?

CINDY  
Female problems, of anyone in this house, I would think you could understand.

ALLISON  
Well I'm going out with Curt Johnson tonight.

CINDY  
Are you excited?

ALLISON  
Yeah, I guess so, I mean, I just can't believe we're actually going out.

*Jimmy and Danny enter the room.*

DANNY  
Whoa, what's that smell?

CINDY  
Female problems.

JIMMY  
I know how that goes.

DANNY  
Mom, are you ready to take us to the movie?

CINDY  
What?

JIMMY  
You said you'd take us to the movies tonight.

CINDY  
Did I? But I'm playing euchre with the girls tonight.

DANNY and JIMMY  
Mom!

CINDY  
Now relax. Allison is going to the movies tonight, she can take you.

ALLISON  
Mom! I have a date tonight.

CINDY  
You're going to the movies, it wouldn't hurt you take the boys along with you.

ALLISON  
I can't believe this, Curt will kill me.

JIMMY  
You're not going make out with him, are you?

DANNY  
Sick!

ALLISON  
You two need to grow up. Come on, let's go.

JIMMY  
What's it like? Kissing a boy?

DANNY  
Gross Jimmy, you want to kiss a boy?

JIMMY  
No butthole, I just want to know what making out is like, I mean how do you....

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 8—INT.—MOVIE THEATRE**

*The twins, Allison, and Curt are walking inside the movie theatre, having just bought the tickets.*

ALLISON  
Now you two just sit back here and be quiet, ok?

JIMMY  
Now you two just sit there and don't make out, ok?

CURT  
Mind your business, kid.

DANNY  
We're fine. Just go away.

ALLISON  
All right, we're going, please, please, please, behave.

*The twins sit down in the back row, while Curt and Allison walk further up and sit down.*

JIMMY  
I don't like that guy.

DANNY  
Yeah, I know, he's mean.

JIMMY  
If he tries to make out with Allison, let's throw popcorn at him.

DANNY  
Yeah!

*Cut to Curt and Allison*

CURT

Your brothers are little punks, aren't they?

ALLISON

Be nice. They're good kids, really.

CURT

Right.

*The movie starts, it gets dark in the theatre and Curt tries to put his arm around Allison.*

ALLISON

Slow down, Curt.

CURT

What did I do?

ALLISON

I just don't want to move too quick, ok?

CURT

Sure.

*The movie plays for a few minutes. Curt now tries to put his hand on Allison's leg.*

ALLISON

Curt! Stop!

CURT

Come on, what is your problem?

ALLISON

I'm sorry, but I'm not like that.

CURT

Like what?

ALLISON

I'm not...easy.

CURT

I never said you were, just relax, I'll go slow.

*Again Curt puts his hand on her leg, this time, she jumps up.*

ALLISON

That's it, I'm leaving.

CURT

Sit down, you're making a scene.

ALLISON

I don't care, you are not going to do that to me.

*Allison walks up the aisle, and out of the door, Curt runs after her. The boys look at each other, then run after Curt.*

CURT

Allison, where are you going?

ALLISON

Home. I'm going home.

CURT

What is your problem?

ALLISON

I told you to stop, and you wouldn't.

CURT

Get off it. Stop pretending that you're such a goody goody.

ALLISON

I'm not pretending to be anything.

CURT

My Dad said you're dad told him that I wouldn't have any trouble with you on this date.

ALLISON

What?

CURT

Your dad told mine that you were dying to go out with me.

ALLISON

I never said that!

CURT

Don't be shy, all the girls do.

ALLISON



You are such a jerk.

CURT

Hey, don't get on my back. It's your loss honey.

*At this point the twins come in, and stand next to Allison.*

JIMMY

Leave her alone.

DANNY

Yeah.

CURT

What are you punks going to do about it?

JIMMY

We'll take you on, tough guy.

CURT [chuckles]

Whenever you want a piece, bring it on.

ALLISON

Stop. All of you.

CURT

Have fun playing baby sitter, I'm out of here.

ALLISON

You're just leaving us here?

CURT

Hey, you're the one who walked out on me.

*He walks away.*

DANNY

That's right, you got dumped, by a girl!

JIMMY

What a nerd!

ALLISON

Stop you guys.

DANNY

I'm glad you left, that guy is a asshole.

JIMMY

I'm sorry your date was ruined.

ALLISON

Well it wasn't your guy's fault. Thanks for coming out here to help me.

DANNY

Sure. Nobody messes with our sister, except us.

JIMMY

That's right.

ALLISON

Come on, I guess we'll walk home.

JIMMY

We need to make a pact. So nobody can mess with any of us. We all promise, that anybody who tries to hurt one of us, all three of us will stick together and kick some butt.

DANNY

Yeah, we'll always be there to help each other.

ALLISON

That's really sweet you guys.

JIMMY

Are you in? You have to promise.

ALLISON

I promise.

DANNY

I promise.

JIMMY

I promise. Now we have to shake on it.

*All three put their hands in, and begin giving each other high fives.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 9—1993—INT—PAYNE LIVING ROOM—MORNING**

*It is now five years later, we begin by panning across the fireplace and bookshelves, seeing pictures of Allison's graduation, her going off to college, the twins playing middle school sports, school photos that show them getting older, etc...The twins are now 15 years old, and are freshman in high school. Danny is impatiently waiting by the door, while Jimmy is reading a newspaper.*

DANNY

Dude, are you ready to go or what?

JIMMY

Just a sec.

DANNY

What the hell are you reading?

JIMMY

There's a recipe in here for a tomato and garlic quiche, it's sounds fabulous.

DANNY

Are you serious? What are you, some kind of homo or what?

JIMMY

Shut up you faggot, I like to cook, so what?

DANNY

You're weird man, let's go.

**EXIT.**

**SCENE 10—INT—LOCKER ROOM**

*A group of boys enter the locker room wearing football gear, all sweaty and dirty following practice. They begin taking off their clothes and heading to the showers.*

JIMMY

Last one in is a faggot!

MATT

Danny, how can two guys who look so much alike be so completely different?

DANNY

What do you mean?

MATT

Your brother, he's so gay, I mean look at him, he's the only guy here that likes showering better than practice.

DANNY

So he likes to be clean, don't call him gay.

MATT

No offense to you man, you're the best damn player on our team. But seriously, how can one twin be the star and the other be so completely worthless?

DANNY

He's not worthless.

MATT

He's the third string quarterback, and we only have two!

DANNY

Listen, he doesn't even like football. He's just playing because it makes our Dad happy. So let him do his thing, and leave him alone.

*Danny enters the shower, where Jimmy is singing a Broadway showtune. He is by himself in the corner, and all the other boys are at the opposite end of the showers.*

JIMMY

Damn this feels good, nothing like a hot shower after a tough practice, hey Danny?

DANNY

How would you know? What did you do that was tough out there?

JIMMY

Ha ha. Mr. Superstar works so much harder than everybody else. Well Mr. Macho Football player man, can you do this?

*Jimmy turns to face the entire shower room full of boys, and starts doing spinning dance moves, and singing "New York, New York." The other boys look disgusted, Danny looks embarrassed.*

**FADE OUT.**

# **SCENE 11—EXT—PAYNE HOUSE—DUSK**

*The twins get a ride home from a teammate, and as they jump out of the car in front of their house, a police car is in the driveway. They race to the front door, where an officer is walking out.*

DANNY

What's going on? What happened?

OFFICER

Settle down, no emergency. I'm just looking for your father.

JIMMY  
Why? What did he do?

OFFICER  
I have to give him something, I'll come back....

JIMMY  
Are you arresting him?

OFFICER  
No. Not yet anyway. I'll be back tomorrow. [OFFICER EXITS]

*The boys stare as he gets in the car and drives off. They then walk inside.*

DANNY  
Mom? Mom?

JIMMY  
Mom?

*Danny wanders into the kitchen looking for their mother, Jimmy runs upstairs. Jimmy opens the parent's bedroom door, and Cindy is leaning over her dresser, snorting cocaine. She stands up quickly, trying to hide her drugs.*

JIMMY  
Mom, what are you doing?

CINDY  
Nothing. I was just looking for a pencil.

JIMMY  
A pencil? On your dresser?

CINDY  
Yeah. Where do you keep your pencils?

JIMMY  
**On my desk, like everyone else.**

CINDY  
Huh. Not a bad idea. You're so smart. I always knew you'd make me proud.

*Danny now enters the bedroom.*

DANNY  
Mom, what was that cop doing here?

CINDY

Oh. He needs to talk to your father.

DANNY

Obviously. But why?

CINDY

Dick Williams got arrested today.

JIMMY

The real estate guy?

DANNY

What does that have to do with Dad?

CINDY

Your father loaned him the money for some of his properties. They probably just want to tell him that he's not going to get that money back.

DANNY

So Dad's not in any trouble?

CINDY

No, of course not. Don't be silly.

JIMMY

Why would a cop come to our house just to tell him that he's losing money. Wouldn't he know that already?

CINDY

Jimmy, what are you getting at?

JIMMY

I'm just worried, that's all.

CINDY

Well that's very kind of you, but trust me, everything's fine.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 12—INT—PAYNE HOUSE—LATE EVENING**

*The twins are watching t.v. in the living room, Cindy is up in her bedroom. The back door slams and we hear footsteps run quickly up the stairs. The twins look at each other, then they slowly walk up the stairs. As they approach the top, they can hear their parents talking.*

CINDY

What do you mean, you may be involved?

ED

I can't go into it right now, I have to get out of here.

CINDY

You're just leaving?

ED

I have to lay low for a while.

CINDY

Ed. What the hell is going on?

ED

Don't you get it, you crack whore? I gave Dick that money.

CINDY

So what's wrong with that?

ED

I wasn't supposed to. I took that money illegally.

CINDY

You what?

ED

Are you deaf as well as high now? I took that money from other people's loans and put it into his properties.

CINDY

Ed! How could you?

ED

Shut the hell up! How else would you have this house, this furniture, you're drugs...

CINDY

Stop it! Just stop! I can't believe after all these years I'm just learning that my husband is a...

ED

Quiet! [He slaps her across the face.] I have to go.

*As Ed runs out the door, he runs into the twins standing in the hallway.*

ED

Listen boys. I have to go away for a little while. Take care of your mother, ok?

JIMMY

Dad. What...

ED

Thanks. [He runs down the hallway.]

DANNY

What are we supposed to do now?

JIMMY

I guess take care of Mom.

DANNY

Ok.

*Danny closes the parent's bedroom door, leaving Cindy lying on the floor.*

DANNY

She'll be happier in there by herself than with us bothering her.

**FADE OUT.**

### **SCENE 13—INT—CINDY'S BEDROOM**

*It is one week later. Cindy is on the phone, with bottles of alcohol empty beside her bed, and pill bottles lying on their sides. Cindy is on the phone with Allison.*

CINDY

No, you are not coming home. Allison, listen to me. We'll manage, I have some money in the bank. You stay there...

ALLISON

Mom, I'm coming home. You'll need help taking care of the boys, and I know you don't have that much money. I can get a job there, and I'll help you out.

CINDY

No, you only have one year left of college, you have to finish.

ALLISON

I will finish, I just want to make sure that you get settled and everything is ok. You haven't heard from Dad, have you?



CINDY

No. I think he's gone for good. What am I going to do? [she begins crying]

ALLISON

I will be home tomorrow morning. See you then. [hangs up]

*Cindy hangs up the phone, and takes another drink from a bottle. She then gets up, goes into the bathroom, and snorts a line of cocaine.* **EXIT.**

**SCENE 14—INT.—SIMMONS, WILSON, AND BAYMAN LAW OFFICES**

*Allison is in an office with Ron Bayman, a partner at a prestigious law firm, where she has applied for a job.*

RON

I've been very impressed with your resume, honors student, Dean's List, sorority girl.  
[winks at her] I see you haven't finished your degree.

ALLISON

I only have four classes left 'till I graduate. I just moved home to help out with my family, we're struggling right now.

RON

I know. I know your father very well. And your mother too, what is it? Cheryl, Carol...

ALLISON

Cindy.

RON

Cindy! Yes, a beautiful woman. I see where you get your looks from.

ALLISON

Thank you.

RON

Have you heard from your father lately?

ALLISON

No sir.

RON

Well, I can't really hire a paralegal without a college degree...

ALLISON

But I'll get it soon, as soon as my family is ok again I'll go back and...

RON

Allison. What I was going to say is that while I can't hire a paralegal right now, I could use an assistant. You could be a second secretary of sorts, filing, typing, helping paralegals when they need it, but more or less just helping me.

ALLISON

Really?

RON

Now it won't be great pay, but...

ALLISON

That's ok, whatever it is, every little bit helps.

RON

I'll pay you ten dollars an hour.

ALLISON

Ten dollars! Oh...

RON

Ok, eleven, but that's it.

ALLISON

Great! Thank you so much Mr. Bayman, I can't...

RON

Ron, call me Ron. Mr. Bayman sounds like I'm an old man. I'm only 37, that's not old, is it?

ALLISON

Not at all, I thought you were younger than that.

RON

Made partner in seven years. Worked my ass off, 80 plus hours a week, but it's all worth it now.

ALLISON

80 hours a week! That must've been hard on your wife.

RON

That's what I thought. But she had plenty to keep her busy, another man.

ALLISON

Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry.

RON

Don't worry about it, she's been gone for almost 10 years now, I'm ok with it.

ALLISON

That's terrible.

RON

Well, welcome to Simmons, Wilson, and Bayman.

ALLISON

Thank you again so much, I...

RON

No problem, see you back here on Monday.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 15—THREE MONTHS LATER (CHRISTMAS, 1993)—INT.—PAYNE HOUSE**

*It is Christmas day, and the living room is decorated with a tree and stockings, etc...The family is gathered around, opening presents.*

JIMMY

Thank you so much Allison, [holding up a shirt] it's awesome.

ALLISON

I know you wanted Abercrombie, but I just couldn't afford...

JIMMY

No, no. It's great. You've done so much since you've been back, you shouldn't have even gotten us anything.

DANNY

Yeah, this is unbelievable. You spent way too much money on us.

ALLISON

Well it's Christmas, you have to open presents on Christmas.

CINDY

This has been wonderful darling. You will make someone a very happy man someday.

ALLISON

I don't know about that. With the hours I'm working, I don't really have time to meet anyone.

DANNY  
What about somebody at work?

JIMMY  
Yeah, marry some rich lawyer, then you don't have to work anymore. That's what I'm going to do.

CINDY  
Jimmy! Stop it.

ALLISON  
It's not a bad idea. Actually, I was thinking about asking Ron to come over to have dinner with us. He's single, and all by himself on Christmas, so...

CINDY  
That's a wonderful idea baby. He's been so good to you, why don't you call him right now?

ALLISON  
Is it ok with you guys?

DANNY  
Sure.

JIMMY  
Why not?

ALLISON  
Ok, I'll be right back.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 16—INT—PAYNE KITCHEN-EVENING**

*The family is gathered around the table, and Ron is dining with them.*

CINDY [sipping a glass of wine]  
So tell us Ron, how does a man like you stay single for so long?

RON  
Well, I guess I've just been too busy with my career to worry about that.

ALLISON  
Ron became a partner in seven years, that's like the fastest anybody in this town has done that.

RON

Well, I think I was just in the right place at the right time.

CINDY

I doubt it. You a smart man, handsome, wealthy, women probably are falling all over you.

RON

No, not really.

CINDY

Do you want one too?

ALLISON

Mom!

DANNY

So do you like football?

RON

Oh yeah. I hear you're a heck of a player.

JIMMY

He's unbelievable. We're just freshman, but by the end of the year he's was on the varsity team, and he'll be starting next year.

RON

What about you? Do you play too?

JIMMY

I did. But I don't think I want to anymore.

RON

Really, why is that?

JIMMY

**It's just not that fun.**

*The phone rings, Allison jumps up to get it.*

ALLISON

Dad! Where are you?

*Danny jumps up and runs to the phone, Cindy starts talking with Ron again, and Jimmy just puts his head down and keeps eating.*

ALLISON

What do you mean? Well, the police said to tell them if you tried to contact us, but after the first month or so, we haven't heard from them.[pause, listening] No, of course we won't tell on you, but...we're really short on money...ok, oh, you did? Well, do you want to talk to Danny? Oh, well, ok, then, bye. [hangs up]

DANNY

What was that all about?

ALLISON

He wouldn't tell me where he was, but he said he was safe, and that he put some money in you and Jimmy's bank accounts.

CINDY

Money? He left us some money? Well it's about damn time.

RON

I should be going now. Thank you...

ALLISON

No Ron, stay please.

CINDY

Yes Ron, you really must stay, let me fix you a drink.

RON

Well I guess I can stick around for one drink.

**FADE**

**SCENE 17—INT-PAYNE LIVING ROOM**

*It is later in the evening, and Ron is still there drinking with Allison. The fireplace is lit and crackling in front of them, the room is dimly lit. Both are laughing from something Ron has just said.*

RON

And so he says, "You did that, you nasty!"

*Both laugh hysterically.*

ALLISON

Ron, you are too funny. Thank you so much for coming over tonight.

RON

No, thank you Allison. It's been a long time since I've felt comfortable around a family, and I feel really comfortable around you.

*He slides closer to her and puts his arm around her.*

ALLISON

You're so sweet, I mean you gave me a job, you help me out when I goof up, and...

RON

Cut it out. You earned that job, and you've been working hard. And I want to show you my gratitude.

*He leans in and kisses her.*

RON

I've wanted to do that for a long time.

ALLISON

You have?

RON

Of course, look at you, you're beautiful, intelligent, sexy as hell, and beautiful.

ALLISON

You're drunk.

RON

Probably. But so are you. And I've always believed people say what they really feel when they're drunk.

ALLISON

I am a little dizzy right now.

RON

Why don't you just lie back and relax for a while.

*He kisses her again, and lays her down on the sofa. They make out for a few moments, but when Ron tries to grab her breast, she stops him.*

ALLISON

Ron slow down.

RON

Shhh. Just let me take care of you.

*He grabs her again.*

ALLISON  
No Ron.

RON  
You know you like this, it feels good doesn't it?

ALLISON  
Yes, but I think we should...

RON  
But nothing. Just be quiet and let me make you feel good.

*He now tries to pull up her skirt. When she tries to grab his hand to stop, he overpowers her and puts both of her hands behind her head, and holds them there with one hand. With the other hand, he flips up her skirt and pulls down her underwear. He then begins unbuckling his pants.*

ALLISON  
Ron stop.

RON  
I can't stop. You're so god damned sexy. I need you.

ALLISON [voice rising]  
No stop!

*Ron takes his free hand and covers her mouth.*

RON  
No stay quiet. We both want this, so enjoy it.

*He begins having sex with her. She is squirming and trying to scream, but he is too powerful for her. Within in a minute, he has already had an orgasm. He lets go of her and rolls over.*

ALLISON  
Get out of here! Now!

RON  
Relax. Didn't that feel good?

ALLISON  
No, now please leave!

RON  
Ok, I'm going. Try not to drink so much, it makes you moody.



*Ron leaves, and Allison turns to the fireplace and breaks down sobbing.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 18—INT.—LAW OFFICE**

*It is a week later, and Allison is now back at work. She is trying to type something on the computer, but she seems flustered, and continually messes up. Finally she slams her hands on the desk. Ron opens his office door to see what the noise was.*

RON  
Is everything o.k. here?

ALLISON  
Fine.

RON  
Allison, could I see you in here for a moment please?

*She walks into his office, and he closes the door behind her.*

RON  
You seem distracted today, what's wrong?

ALLISON  
Gee, I don't know, what do you think Ron?

RON  
I'm not one to play psychologist, but does this have to do with problems at home? You've been working great here for months, and then your father calls and now...

ALLISON  
You think it's because of my father!

RON  
Well, I'm sure that could cause some problems, not seeing him for so long and...

ALLISON  
I can't believe you!

RON  
You're right. It's not my business to pry. Anyway, why don't you take the rest of the day off and come back tomorrow when everything's sorted out.

*He opens the door.*

ALLISON  
I cannot believe you.

RON  
I know, why am I so good? But honestly, I care about the people who work for me, so  
I'll see you tomorrow.

*He quickly closes the door on her. Shocked, Allison turns and walks out of the building.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 19—INT.—HIGH SCHOOL**

*The twins are in a science classroom, where the teacher is passing back papers.*

MR. MICHAELS  
These tests are pretty poor. Of the 22 students in this class, we had six F's, nine D's, two  
C's, four B's, and only one A. Thank you Mr. Payne.

DANNY  
All right. An A!

MR. MICHAELS  
Not you, Danny. Jimmy Payne, 96 percent. Excellent work.

JIMMY  
96? Wow. What did you get Danny?

DANNY  
A C-minus.

JIMMY  
Ouch. Well I'll help you study next time.

DANNY  
Cool.

MR. MICHAELS  
**And since so many of did so poorly, I'm offering a make-up test Thursday after school. I  
suggest you be there, except for Jimmy of course.**

*The bell rings.*

Ok, I'll see you tomorrow.

*Danny and Jimmy walk down the hallway together. Erica Brady, a beautiful 15 year old,  
runs up to them.*

ERICA  
Hey guys, what's up?

DANNY  
Hey Erica.

JIMMY  
Hi.

ERICA  
Jimmy, do you like, think you'd be willing to like, help me study for the Biology test?

JIMMY  
Well I don't know, I have choir practice and...

DANNY  
Dude, do it.

ERICA  
I'm just like so, like, lost on this Biology stuff. I really need some help, I'd owe you like big time if you help me.

DANNY [whispering in Jimmy's ear]  
She's hot dude, go over to her place.

JIMMY  
Well I guess I can tomorrow night. Will that work?

ERICA  
You are like the greatest! Here's my phone number, call me tonight, and I'll tell you how to get to my house. Bye.

*She exits.*

DANNY  
You just got Erica Brady's phone number. You pimp daddy.

JIMMY  
**Oh boy. I'm so excited.**

DANNY  
What's a matter with you? Erica is like the hottest girl in the school, and I hear she puts out.

JIMMY  
Who cares?

DANNY

Hey, if you don't want her, put in a word for me.

JIMMY

I'll do that.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 20—INT.—ERICA'S BEDROOM**

*Jimmy and Erica are sitting at her desk, going over Biology notes.*

JIMMY

So when the plant takes in carbon dioxide, which we breathe out, it in turn makes oxygen for us. And the cycle just repeats and repeats. Got it?

ERICA

Oh my god. This is like, so confusing.

JIMMY

Ok let's try this. You're a cheerleader right?

ERICA

Yeah, don't you watch me?

JIMMY

Not really. Anyway, why do you cheer?

ERICA

Because, like, it makes the crowd feel good and gets them into the game.

JIMMY

Right. And what's the best part of it for you?

ERICA

When the crowd really gets into what we're doing, and I know everybody is watching **me, and they all start cheering when I do a back handspring.**

JIMMY

Perfect. So imagine the crowd is a bunch of plants and you are still you. When you cheer to the crowd, you're giving them carbon dioxide. They take in your cheer, and it makes them feel good. So then they start cheering for you, and they give you applause. Those applause are oxygen. You take those in and it makes you feel good. Does that make sense?

ERICA

Totally. What I do for them helps them, and they turn that into something that's good for me.

JIMMY

Exactly.

ERICA

Oh my god! You have just completely saved my life.

JIMMY

Good. I'm glad I could help a little.

ERICA

Not a little, a ton. I owe you so much. How can I make it up to you?

*She leans in close to him, but Jimmy pulls back.*

JIMMY

Tell me where you got that Jason Priestly poster, it's fabulous.

*Erica has a confused look on her face.*

ERICA

I got it in California. You know, I think you're cuter than Jason Priestly.

*She again tries to kiss him.*

JIMMY

No way. Look at his hair, great, his shoes, his belt, everything matches. He is in style.

ERICA

I think you are too.

*This time she grabs him and kisses him. He quickly pulls away.*

JIMMY

Erica, stop.

ERICA

What's the matter? No one has ever not wanted to kiss me.

JIMMY

No doubt. I just can't, I'm sorry.

ERICA

What is it? Am I ugly or something?

JIMMY

Not at all, you're attractive, well dressed, I love that shirt by the way. But... I have to get going.

ERICA

I can't believe this, I'm so embarrassed.

JIMMY

Don't be embarrassed. If you think I'm cute, go for my brother Danny. He looks just like me.

ERICA

I'll keep that in mind.

JIMMY

Well, good luck tomorrow. I'll see you later.

*He leaves.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 21—INT.—DOCTOR'S OFFICE**

*Allison is sitting inside a doctor's office, in a medical gown. A doctor is sitting beside her looking over some paperwork.*

DOCTOR

And how long has it been since your last period?

ALLISON

It's been about six weeks now.

DOCTOR

So you would say you're about a week to two weeks late?

ALLISON

Yes.

DOCTOR

Well let's get a blood sample now, and we'll have the results in about three days.

*He sticks a needle into her arm, and draws some blood.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 22—INT.—PAYNE LIVING ROOM**

*Jimmy and Danny are coming in the door from school, and Cindy is lying on the couch, sobbing uncontrollably.*

DANNY  
Mom! What's wrong?

JIMMY  
Mom! Talk to us!

CINDY  
They caught your father.

DANNY  
What? Who?

CINDY  
The police. He was in Florida, but they tracked him down somehow.

JIMMY  
So where is he now?

CINDY  
He's in jail. They're bringing him back here for trial next week.

DANNY  
Oh my god. Poor Dad.

CINDY  
Poor Dad? What about me? I'll be the laughingstock of the town, having my husband in jail.

JIMMY  
Mom, Dad's been gone for like 6 months now, don't you think most people know already that's he's been gone?

CINDY  
No, I told everyone he was on a business trip.

JIMMY  
Mom, everyone in town already...

*Danny elbows Jimmy to be quiet, Cindy is obviously out of touch with what's going on.*

DANNY

It's all right Mom. We'll let everyone know how bad he treated you, no one will make fun of you.

CINDY

It doesn't matter. It's too late now. I'm so humiliated.

*She breaks down sobbing again.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 23—INT.—LAW OFFICE**

*Allison walks into the law office, looking distraught, she is wiping tears away from her face. She goes to Ron's other secretary.*

ALLISON

Is Ron in there?

SECRETARY

No, he had a meeting with a new client this afternoon. Are you o.k?

ALLISON

No, I really need to talk to Ron though. Is he coming back today?

SECRETARY

I don't know, he didn't say. What's the matter dear?

ALLISON

My life is falling apart, I need to get out of here.

SECRETARY

Why don't you go home?

ALLISON

Yeah, thanks.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 24—INT.—CINDY'S BEDROOM**

*Cindy is lying on her bed, smoking a cigarette. She's looking up at the ceiling, and appears to be speaking to herself.*



CINDY

What have I been doing for the last 20 years? My life has had no meaning. A terrible husband, three pain in the ass kids to take care of. It's about time something happened for me.

*Now we see that Ron is in the bedroom with her, getting dressed.*

RON

That's right. I told you I had what you needed.

CINDY

You were so right. Can't you stay for a little bit longer?

RON

I have to be getting back to the office. But I'll be back, don't you worry about that.

CINDY

You'd better. You promised me some good stuff, remember?

RON

I'll have it for you in a couple of days. Talk to you soon.

*He leans over and kisses her.*

Bye.

*Ron walks out of the bedroom door and heads downstairs. As he is making his way to the front door, it opens, and Allison walks in.*

ALLISON

What are you doing here?

RON

I came looking for you, you weren't at work this morning.

ALLISON

I had to go to the doctor.

RON

Oh, are you feeling all right?

ALLISON

I'm pregnant.

RON  
Pregnant! How long?

ALLISON  
Three weeks.

RON  
Three weeks? You told me you hadn't been dating anyone.

ALLISON  
I haven't.

RON  
Yet you're pregnant? What are you, some kind of whore or something?

ALLISON  
What? A whore...

RON  
I guess I don't pay you enough, you could've told me that you were going to sell your body to make some extra cash.

ALLISON  
I haven't sold my body to...

RON  
Our office cannot accept a secretary slash slut. I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to let you go.

ALLISON  
Let me go? This is yours for Christ's sake.

RON  
No way. Nothing ever happened between us.

ALLISON  
How can you say that?

RON  
Allison. I thought I knew you, I thought you'd be smart enough to be on the pill.

ALLISON  
Why would I be on the pill, I wasn't even with anyone...

RON  
A prostitute should always be on the pill. I'm sorry, but you're fired.

*He walks out of the door. Allison chases him outside.*

ALLISON

You cannot do this to me. You know this child is yours, and furthermore, that you raped me.

RON

Listen to me. The whole world knows that your family could not afford this house on the salary that I pay you. Obviously you're getting money from somewhere else, and that won't too hard to convince people how.

ALLISON

You are sick. You cannot get away with this. I'll sue you, I'll have you arrested.

*While she is screaming, Ron gets into his car, and speeds off. Allison continues to scream in the street, and Cindy comes running outside.*

CINDY

Allison! What is the matter with you?

ALLISON

He fired me, he raped me, and now I'm pregnant.

CINDY

What are you talking about?

ALLISON

Ron. He raped me, and now I'm pregnant, and he just fired...

CINDY

Ron raped you? You must be crazy, he wouldn't ever do something like that.

ALLISON

How would you know anything about him?

CINDY

**I've known Ron for years, he's a good man.**

ALLISON

Mom? I'm pregnant!

CINDY

Dear God child. Why weren't you on the pill? Didn't you ever stop to think about your family? Where are we going to get the money to feed another person? Oh that's right, you lost your job too. Great, now how are we going to pay our bills?

ALLISON

Mom! What is the matter with you?

CINDY

You're my problem. You're so selfish you didn't even think about your family and how we depend on you.

ALLISON

Mom? I need your help.

CINDY

You need a lot of help, you little whore, what were you thinking?

*Cindy turns and walks back inside, leaving Allison alone in the street crying.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 25—INT.—PAYNE KITCHEN**

*It is later that evening, and the twins are eating dinner with Cindy.*

JIMMY

Mom, where's Allison?

CINDY

Who knows?

DANNY

Her car's out front.

CINDY

Well then she must be her, huh?

JIMMY

What's the matter with you Mom?

CINDY

Oh, I'm just worried about where our next meal will come from.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

CINDY

Your slut of sister got fired today.

JIMMY  
What!

DANNY  
How did that happen?

CINDY  
She's been whoring around, and Ron said it was affecting her work.

DANNY  
What do you mean, she's whoring around?

CINDY  
She's pregnant!

*They all sit in silence for a moment.*

Now we have no source of income, and soon we'll have another mouth to feed.

*Jimmy gets up from the table, and walks upstairs to Allison's room.*

JIMMY  
Allison? Can I come in?

ALLISON  
Yeah.

JIMMY  
Hey, I just heard.

ALLISON  
Jimmy, I'm 21 years old, I'm not ready to be a mother.

JIMMY  
When did this happen? I didn't even know you were dating anyone.

ALLISON  
It's Ron, my boss.

JIMMY  
Ron!

ALLISON  
And when he found out, he fired me.

JIMMY

He can't do that, we'll sue him, and then we'll...

ALLISON

How are we going to sue him? We have no money for a lawyer, and Dad's trial is coming soon, we'll need everything for that.

JIMMY

Screw Dad, we don't owe him anything.

ALLISON

Don't say that, he's your father, and this family must stick together.

JIMMY

He left us!

ALLISON

He made a mistake, he's still our father and we'll stand by him.

JIMMY

What are we gonna do?

ALLISON

I don't know, I don't know.

*They hug, and both start crying.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 26—INT.—CINDY'S BEDROOM**

*Cindy is leaning over her nightstand, snorting cocaine. She pulls up, turns to face Ron in bed with her.*

RON

You like that?

CINDY

Oh my god. That really hits you.

RON

I knew you'd like it.

CINDY

Ron, I wanted to ask you something.

RON

What's that, baby?

CINDY

Why did you really fire Allison?

RON

Cindy, you are beautiful woman, and someday your daughter may be as attractive as you, but she just kept screwing up at work. You know I only gave her the job to help you guys out, but she was really putting me in a tough spot. Also, no, never mind.

CINDY

What? Tell me.

RON

Well, about a month ago, Allison tried to come on to me. She said she'd do anything to get a promotion, and she tried to kiss me. I'm a professional, I just couldn't have something like that happening at work. I'm sorry I had to do it, she really left me no choice. But don't worry about yourself. I'll take care of you.

CINDY

I'm just worried about where we'll get the money to pay our bills.

RON

Don't you worry about any of that, I said I'd take care of you.

*They begin making love.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 27—EXT.—DOWNTOWN STREET**

*Allison is out looking for a job. She looks up the sign, and goes in. We see her walking back out, and moving on to another building. Montage of her in various businesses, meeting with people, but continually getting denied, heads shaking no, "I'm sorry." Finally, she's walking home dejectedly, and she walks by a grocery store, which has a sign that says, "now hiring." She walks in.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 28—INT.—CINDY'S BEDROOM**

*Ron and Cindy are still going at it, when Allison suddenly busts in.*

ALLISON

Mom! I got a... Oh my god!

CINDY

Allison! What the hell are you doing here?

ALLISON  
What the hell is he doing here?

CINDY  
What does it look like?

ALLISON  
How could you do this to us?

RON  
Do what? I'm trying to do your mother, if you'd please leave us alone.

ALLISON  
I can't believe you! Mom, you too!

CINDY  
Allison, Ron told me everything. And I've never been so ashamed of you in my life. I can't believe you're really my daughter.

ALLISON  
How can you say that?

RON  
Allison, maybe you'd better go now.

ALLISON  
You two are sick, really sick. I'm gone.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 29—INT.—GROCERY STORE**

*It is several months later. Allison is working as a cashier at the store. She is now well along in her pregnancy. Jimmy and Danny walk in.*

JIMMY  
Hey Allison!

ALLISON  
Jimmy! Danny! What are you guys doing here?

DANNY  
You never gave us your phone number, we've been worried sick about you.

JIMMY  
And the little guy?



ALLISON

We're getting by. I work here all day, and now I'm a waitress at the diner down the road,  
so I'm there all night.

DANNY

How's the place you're staying?

ALLISON

It's not much, but it's just me, so I don't need much.

JIMMY

Can we come and see it.

ALLISON

No. You guys don't need to be around me.

DANNY

What are you talking about? We want to spend time with you.

ALLISON

Mom would probably throw a fit.

JIMMY

Screw Mom. She's too high to know what we're doing anyway.

DANNY

And Ron is always there, so it's not she pays too much attention to us anyway.

ALLISON

It's so awful guys. How did we end up like this?

JIMMY

I guess we've had it coming for years, and it finally caught up with us.

DANNY

Yeah, by the way. Dad's trial is coming up, are you gonna come with us?

ALLISON

I doubt it. I couldn't stand to see Mom right now.

DANNY

But this is for Dad, we haven't seen him in like a year and a half.

JIMMY

And Mom won't even recognize you, she'll be stoned out of her head.

ALLISON

Maybe I'll hide in the back of the courtroom, but I won't sit with you guys. I have to start my own life now.

JIMMY

You'll never be on your own. We made a promise remember? It's like that musical Carousel, [singing] "You'll Never Walk Alone."

DANNY

Oh great, the Broadway performer is at it again.

ALLISON

You guys are the best. But I still can't deal with everything right now, I still need time.

DANNY

I understand. But hey, you know our number, call us.

JIMMY

And don't forget, "You'll never walk alone." [singing]

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 30—INT.—COURTROOM**

*The trial of Ed Payne is going on. The twins and Cindy are sitting in the front row behind the gate, and Ed is sitting at the defense table with his lawyer. He looks about the same, maybe slightly grayer, but very much the same arrogant man we've known.*

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Your honor, I would now like to call Ed Payne to the witness stand.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Your honor, I would like to ask for recess before Mr. Payne's testimony.

JUDGE

How long would you like counselor?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

An hour if possible, your honor.

JUDGE

It's nearly lunchtime, now would be a good time for recess. We'll meet back in one hour.  
[bangs gavel.]

ED [turning to his family]

Hey guys, what do you think so far? We might pull this off.

DANNY

I don't know, all this legal talk is confusing me.

JIMMY

It looks pretty incriminating Dad, you really think you're gonna get off?

ED

Have you lost faith in your old man?

JIMMY

Yes.

ED

Shame on you. Listen, they're after bigger fish here. We're gonna plea bargain and I'll get maybe two or three years, so don't worry.

DANNY

Two or three years? Dad, we have no money. How are we going to eat?

ED

Your mother can get a job, and Allison, by the way, where is Allison?

CINDY

How am I going to get a job? I have no skills. Jesus, nice idea Ed.

*She opens her purse and pulls out some pills, and swallows three or four of them.*

ED

Well I see too much hasn't changed since I've been gone. So where is Allison?

JIMMY

She's supposed to be here, maybe she...

CINDY

Oh who cares where she is. Ed, I want a divorce.

ED

**A divorce? Now's a hell of a time to bring this up.**

CINDY

You've been jerking this family around for too long, and I've had enough.

ED

Listen, I've been sending you money this whole time, the boys accounts are full of clean, legal money, and if you're starving, it's because of your blowing the stash on those pills of yours, and God knows what else.

DANNY  
Dad, easy...

ED  
I'm sorry son, but the truth has to come out. Your Mom is a drug addict, and she needs help.

CINDY  
I am not an addict. How dare you accuse me of...

ED  
It's true and you know it.

JIMMY  
Shhh. People are looking at us.

ED  
Damn Jimmy! When you stop being a bull queer and get some goddamn balls?

CINDY  
Leave him out of this.

ED  
You all make me sick. I've got a crack whore for a wife, a son who would rather puff on peckers than sleep with a girl, and...oh my God, is that Allison?

*Allison walks into the courtroom, her belly protruding from her dress.*

CINDY  
Oh great, here she comes.

JIMMY  
There she is.

DANNY  
Dad, listen, things have really gone bad for us lately...

ED  
You've got that right. It looks like I got out of there just in time. Now my own daughter is going to be a teenage mother.

JIMMY  
She's 21.

ED

Who cares? You're all worthless, why don't you leave? I don't want to know you anymore. And a divorce, where do I sign?

DANNY

Dad, please.

ED

Get out of here. Leave now.

*Slowly, they all get up and walk out of the courtroom. Ed, furious, turns back to his table, and bows his head in shame.*

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 31-INT.—PAYNE KITCHEN**

*It is three weeks later. Jimmy is sitting at the kitchen table, reading a newspaper. Inside the paper, the headline reads, "Local Banker Sentenced To Four Years." It talks about how Ed is being put in a very white-collar, low security prison upstate. Jimmy quietly folds up the paper and throws it away. Danny walks in the room.*

DANNY

Hey dude, are you ready to go?

JIMMY

To school? It's seven-thirty.

DANNY

I want to get there early to ask Erica Brady out.

JIMMY

No way.

DANNY

What do you mean? She digs me, I saw her checking me out the other day.

JIMMY

I'm telling you man, she's a big tease.

DANNY

How would you know? Like you've ever even kissed a girl.

JIMMY

I have as a matter of fact.

DANNY  
Who?

JIMMY  
Erica.

DANNY  
Bullshit. When did this alleged kiss take place?

JIMMY  
A couple of months ago. I went over to help her with her homework.

DANNY  
You're lying man.

JIMMY  
Ask her if you don't believe me.

DANNY  
I will ask her, out that is. Let's go.

**FADE OUT.**

**SCENE 32—INT.—HIGH SCHOOL**

*In the hallway, between class periods. Kids are slamming lockers, making a lot of noise, running all over the place. Erica is at her locker, putting books away. Danny walks up to her.*

DANNY  
Hey Erica.

ERICA  
Hey Jimmy.

DANNY  
It's Danny.

ERICA  
Oh my God! Danny, I'm so sorry. I like totally thought you were Jimmy.

DANNY  
It's ok, some people think we look alike or something.

ERICA

Yeah, you do, you guys could be like twins.

DANNY

Uhhh...

ERICA

Weird, huh? Anyway, I'm sorry Danny, what's up?

DANNY

I was just wondering, uh, what you were doing Friday night?

ERICA

There's this party at this guy's house, I don't even know who he is, but like his parents are going away for like the weekend or something, and so he's going to have this keg party, and I'm going to go because like everyone is going to be there. Are you going?

DANNY

Uh, yeah, as a matter of fact that's what I was going to tell you about.

ERICA

Hello, that was news like yesterday, third period.

DANNY

I know, but I haven't seen you since then, and I just wanted to make sure you'd be there.

ERICA

Oh yeah, totally. It should be soooo cool. See ya there.

*She closes her locker and walks away. Danny turns and walks the other way down the hall, to his locker. Jimmy's locker is next to his, and he is waiting there.*

JIMMY

So pimp daddy. When's the big date?

DANNY

Well, uh, she has plans already for this Friday, but if I play my cards right, I'll still get her, don't worry.

JIMMY

Who's worried? So what are we doing Friday?

DANNY

I don't know about you, but I'm going to a party.